

TRRP Fish Workgroup Meeting Summary

FWS Office, Arcata, CA

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Participants

Core members: Todd Buxton (FWS), George Kautsky (HVT), Kyle De Juilio (YT), Mary Claire-Kier (CDFW), Seth Naman (NOAA)

Others in attendance: Shane Quinn (YT), Joe Polos (FWS), Billy Matildon (HVT), Derek Rupert (FWS), Wade Sinnen (CDFW), Nick Som (FWS)

Note taker: Todd Buxton and Shane Quinn

New Actions Items

- Buxton will distribute a draft agenda for the one-day meeting to discuss alternatives for adult salmon escapement monitoring.
- Buxton will provide the template for submitting metadata to the TRRP and spreadsheets for data formats to each partner.
- Partners will provide Buxton a list of prioritized issues that have not been addressed in the Bradford and Hankin comments on adult salmon monitoring projects.
- Mary Claire-Kier will provide CWT and scale age structure data to the FWG so that members can verify her figure summarizing the data (completed 6/9/2016).

Work Group recommendations/decisions

- None

Notes

George Kautsky requested formation of a subgroup to address comments on past drafts of the cohort reconstruction report for the Trinity River. Joe Polos agreed to lead the subgroup. George, Shane, Todd, and Derek volunteered to be subgroup members.

A list of data packages and reports that are missing from the TRRP since 2012 was presented to the FWG. Partners were again asked to submit this information to the TRRP, and Buxton noted the administrative burden that results from having to repeatedly remind partners of this requirement.

Todd Buxton is working with Seth Naman on the agenda for a one-day meeting to discuss alternatives for adult salmon escapement monitoring on the Trinity River and to collect coho data for status reviews to be held in July 2016, if possible. Wade Sinnen suggested that juvenile outmigration monitoring could be used to inform status of coho salmon instead of adult escapement.

A short discussion on the status of synthesis analyses occurred. The habitat group is expected to present a draft synthesis report July 2016. Joe Polos mentioned he will reconvene his effort to direct synthesis reporting on juvenile production per spawner in the near future. Bill Pinnix and

Nick Som expect to start synthesis report writing on juvenile salmon outmigration in July. The Yurok Tribe's RFQ for synthesis reporting was questioned for the reason that its stated goal is to accomplish synthesis reporting that is underway in the program. Kyle Dejuilio questioned the definition of synthesis analysis, and Buxton mentioned that he is working on the definition for review by upper management.

Nick Som communicated that methods have been completed for computing variance for adult catches of fall Chinook on the Trinity River. Poaching in the Klamath River estuary remains unaccounted in Nick's analysis. Nick will contact Desma Williams for information on how this problem may be accounted for in variance analysis. At present, Som has completed variance analysis for one year for the Yurok fishery, two years for the Hoopa fishery, and 2010-14 for sport catch. All years will be analyzed for all fisheries when these data are available, which Buxton has agreed to gather for Nick.

Carcass supplementation proposal was discussed in the group. Shane Quinn will provide notes from Trinity River hatchery (TRH) meeting on this topic (attached as supplement to these notes). Ideas in the discussion on this topic by the FWG included locating carcasses to minimize unfavorable impacts on the public, including dogs eating carcasses and getting sick, smell, and attraction of predators (bears, etc.). Different measures for tracking carcass effects on riparian plant growth were discussed, including tree growth, isotope analysis, and plant survival. Naman noted that any monitoring that is undertaken should inform management actions.

Derek Rupert presented some ideas that originated from his analyses of redd survey data collected on the Trinity River. Spawning distribution has increased in the downstream direction and clusters of spawning occur in both time and space. Integrated populations of hatchery and wild Chinook spawn within 2 miles of the TRH most the season. Spring Chinook spawn early and close to the hatchery. Fall Chinook are comparatively spread-out in space and time. A late Fall run of Chinook spawns downstream of the South Fork Trinity River confluence with the mainstem Trinity River. Rupert requested that survey crews begin collecting tissue samples to investigate the genetic separation of these spawning groups of salmon. FWG encouraged Rupert to present a study proposal for his ideas for review, and stressed that study objectives must explicitly relate to fisheries management on the Trinity River.

The issue of whether to continue collecting scales for other than age-validation purposes at TRH was revisited. The basic idea is that if age structures from coded-wire tags (CWT) are close to age structures obtained from scale reads, only CWT data are required. Review of comparisons of these data reveal close agreement between them, but Kautsky questioned whether the differences were significant enough to warrant continuing both data collections. Mary Claire-Kier will provide CWT and scale age structure data to the FWG so that members can verify her figure summarizing the data. FWG members will have until June 17 to make their comparisons before the data will be provided to Bill Satterthwaite and Mike Mohr for their opinions on whether both data collections are necessary.

Regarding Bradford and Hankin recommendations, the Hoopa Valley Tribe presented their final status and prioritized list for issues that have not been addressed. Other partners presented this information verbally, and Buxton requested they provide him their lists in text instead. Cohort reconstruction has prioritized highly for both tribes which needs the mixed Klamath fishery partitioned by Klamath/Trinity for natural fall Chinook.

The next FWG meeting will take place in July or sometime after the draft habitat synthesis report has been distributed for comments.